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Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: Technical Background Document

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DISCLAIMER

Notice: The Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides is based on policies set out in the Preamble to the Final Rule of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which was published on March 8, 1990 (55 *Federal Register* 8666).

This guidance document sets forth recommended approaches based on EPA's best thinking to date with respect to soil screening for radionuclides. Alternative approaches for screening radionuclides in soil may be found to be more appropriate at specific sites (e.g., where site circumstances do not match the underlying assumptions, conditions, and models of the guidance). The decision whether to use an alternative approach and a description of any such approach should be placed in the Administrative Record for the site.

The policies set out in both the Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: User's Guide and the supporting Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: Technical Background Document are intended solely as guidance to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) personnel; they are not final EPA actions and do not constitute rulemaking. These policies are not intended, nor can they be relied upon, to create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the United States government. EPA officials may decide to follow the guidance provided in this document, or to act at variance with the guidance, based on an analysis of specific site circumstances. EPA also reserves the right to change the guidance at any time without public notice.

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PREFACE

This document provides the technical background for the development of methodologies described in the *Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: User's Guide* (EPA/540-R-00-007), along with additional information useful for soil screening. Together, these documents define the framework and methodology for developing Soil Screening Levels (SSLs) for radionuclides commonly found at Superfund sites. This document is similar to a previous guidance document issued by EPA entitled *Soil Screening Guidance: Technical Background Document* (EPA/540/R-95/128), which contains information regarding the soil screening of chemicals commonly found at Superfund sites. This guidance document intended to be consistent with the 1996 guidance document except where it was necessarry to be different based on a technical difference posed by radionuclides.

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